



## **BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS**

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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

**A1625 ~ The Carpenter's Son.**

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*Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.*

Some time ago, a Christian family received phone calls from a young man who attended a different church. The man really didn't have much to say but when he did, he always took a long time to say it. Whoever answered the telephone knew that they would be sitting down for a while when he called.

One day, the teenage daughter received a friendship ring from the young man in the mail. She didn't want to be close friends with him but didn't want to be rude either. What could they do? The mother reasoned it would be best if the ring was returned in person and that she probably should be the one to do it.

As she drove up and down streets trying to find the man's house, she asked herself why she was putting herself through this stress. Her voice of reason replied back that it was the right thing to do. When she handed the ring back to the young man, very little was said but he got the message not to call again.

Reasoning is a process of thinking about a problem in an orderly, rational way so the mind can come to a good decision and a course of action. God has given us not only reason, but intelligence and logic to help us to use our minds to think about life's challenges.

Famous writers have said: "The ultimate purpose of reason is to bring us to the place where we can see that there is a limit to reason."

“Human reason cannot begin to answer the great questions as to what God is in Himself, and what He is in relation to us.”

“Reason is the greatest enemy faith has. It never comes to the aid of spiritual things, but – more frequently than not – struggles against the divine Word, treating with contempt all that comes from God.”

Such was the case when the Lord Jesus visited His home town of Nazareth. The people there remembered Jesus as a child and as a youth, and certainly didn’t think He could be God’s Messiah. One of the reasons they doubted Jesus’ divine nature came from being familiar with Jesus’ brothers, sisters and parents, who weren’t divine. Not knowing the unique circumstances of His birth, the people thought Jesus was another son of Joseph, who was a carpenter.

In Matthew’s Gospel, Chapter 13, Jesus said to these people: “A prophet is respected everywhere except in his hometown and by his own family.” Because the people lacked any faith in Him, Jesus couldn’t do many miracles while he was there.

At that time, even His own half-brothers didn’t believe He was the Messiah.

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When Jesus went into the synagogue at Nazareth to worship God, as was His custom, He was asked to read from the Scriptures. In Luke’s Gospel, Chapter 4, it’s recorded what He read. The two passages of two verses each were from Isaiah, chapters 49 and 61. When Jesus told the assembled people that He was the person promised in Isaiah, at first they marvelled at His gracious words. However, as He spoke further of instances in their history where God had used unimportant Gentiles (or non-Jews) to carry out God’s work faithfully instead of using Jewish people, they became very angry.

Weren't the Jewish people God's chosen nation? Shouldn't God look after them first? It was that pride and hard-heartedness that prevented God from using them.

A middle-aged man once said: "If you don't have a good opinion of yourself, nobody else will." The people in the synagogue certainly thought they were in right standing with God and they should bring judgment and execution on Jesus despite His many good deeds. They pushed Jesus out of town and might have killed Him if it hadn't been God's plan for Him to die later on.

Although Jesus healed many people of their physical health problems and demon possession, those in the synagogue seemed to be set against Him. Why weren't these people more grateful and loyal to Him for their healings? Jesus' miracles were always done for their good. When two of His disciples in Luke, Chapter 9, asked Jesus if they should call down fire from heaven to destroy the Samaritans in a village that refused to receive Him, He rebuked these disciples. Jesus said He had come not to destroy men's lives, but to save them.

Because the Jewish Temple leaders and rulers had taught the people their Messiah would come as a conquering king, they expected him to be born into a rich ruling family and take control of all Jewish affairs. He was expected to send their Roman overlords back to where they'd come from. In their thinking, Israel would be the next world empire and control all the nations. Their pride and expectations made them at odds with the Lord Jesus, who said He had come to serve people, not to be served by them as their conquering king.

This humble healer the people knew as Jesus didn't fit the necessary requirements they believed the Promised One should have to be the Messiah. But Jesus claimed He was. He said in John, Chapter 10, "I and the Father (God) are one." The rulers declared this statement was blasphemy. They said to Him: "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God."

The word 'blasphemy' means to speak disrespectfully of God, His name and sacred things. In Exodus, Chapter 20, God says: "Do not use my name for evil purposes, for I, the Lord your God, will punish anyone who misuses my name."

Jesus forgave sins, something only God could do.

Jesus claimed to be the light of the world. He said: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Jesus claimed to be the only way to God. In John Chapter 14 He said: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Jesus claimed to be eternal with God. In John, Chapter 8, He said: "I tell you the truth, before Abraham was born, I am!" This claim of eternity with God was unmistakable. He was either the Son of God or a deceiver. He'd used the "I AM" of God's personal name, equating Himself with the Father. No wonder the Jews picked up stones to stone Him to death. But this wasn't yet the time for Him to die.

The Jewish leadership, which included the scribes, Pharisees, Sadducees, chief priests and Sanhedrin, heckled and taunted Jesus as He conducted His teaching and healing ministry among the people. They tried to catch Him teaching heresy and blasphemy, so they could bring His ministry to an end. But Jesus knew what was in their hearts.

These leaders didn't want Jesus to be their king. He didn't have any bags of gold to provide for a crowd of soldiers and servants, or pay for fancy clothes. No, they rejected Him, not only this time at Nazareth but also many other times as well.

Was it possible and reasonable to expect the Jewish leaders and Temple rulers to find out for sure if Jesus was the Messiah or not from the Scriptures? In the Old Testament, there are many prophecies which the Lord Jesus fulfilled. From the book of Genesis, it was predicted that He was pre-existent, born of the seed of a woman, of the descendants of Abraham and from the tribe of Judah.

From other books, He was heir to the throne of David, born in Bethlehem of a virgin, (at the appointed time) declared to be the Son of God, be a prophet and rejected by His own people. There were many prophecies also concerning His arrest, trial, death, burial and resurrection. The one and only person to fulfil all these prophecies was the Lord Jesus Christ.

Many false Messiahs have come and gone. But none of them were ever like the Lord Jesus. If Satan, with powers superior to those of people, could have reasoned out God's plan of salvation, he never would have incited the Jews to crucify Jesus. Jesus' death and resurrection from death was not only victory over Satan, but complete spiritual defeat.

Although Satan still has possession of the earth and is the Prince of the air, it is only a matter of time before the Lord Jesus will take that power away from him too.

The people in Jerusalem were divided in their opinion whether Jesus was the Messiah or not. Jesus publicly declared that He was sent from the Father, He was the Messiah, the Saviour of the world. The top religious authorities sent officers to arrest Jesus, but they were so impressed by Him that they were unable to fulfil their task.

After that the rulers attempted to discredit Him by getting Him to break the Law. But they weren't successful. The big drawback for the Jewish leaders to believe Jesus' teachings came from their reasoning, as spiritual things have to be spiritually discerned. In 1 Corinthians Chapter 2 it says: "But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

Those of us who love the Lord Jesus and commit our lives to Him must be brave in His Spirit's leading and power. We must understand that we are in a spiritual battle every day, and watch for temptation in our thoughts, feelings and actions. Jesus found it impossible to make peace with those who hated Him. Neither can we! But we have the power of prayer for intercession with God – God will answer amazingly as we rely on Him for everything.

A good verse of Scripture to remember is Ephesians, Chapter 5, Verse 11: "Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them."

*The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.*

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